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Rural District of Warwick.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1947,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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I, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

August, 1948.

To the Warwick Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1947, this is the 29th Annual Report I have presented to you.

As in the past few years this Report is restricted to a statement of facts, but a more extended report is given by the Sanitary Inspector.

Kindness has been extended to me by members of the Council and my colleagues, for which I am most grateful.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Warwick Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1947	...	...	18,280
Birth Rate	...	...	16.2
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	26
Death Rate	...	...	11.0
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	59
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Population.—18,280 ; this estimate is 480 more than the figure given by the Registrar General for 1946.

Birth Rate.—16.2 per 1,000 is higher than that for 1946, but much less than the figure for England and Wales for 1947, which was 20.5 per 1,000.

Death Rate.—11.0 per 1,000, less than the figure for England and Wales, viz. 12.0 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—37 per 1,000 births, less than the England and Wales figure for 1947, 41 per 1,000 births. It is interesting to note that 6 out of the 11 deaths in infants under 1 year, were due to premature birth or congenital conditions.

Details of statistics for the past few years, together with those for England and Wales in 1947, are given in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) *Public Health Officers*

Senior Sanitary Inspector—E. Arthur Lyne, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.—F. Spencer A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	—	5	5
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	1	3	4
			—
			9
			—

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water*.—The two sources of public supply of water, Whitnash and Radford, have continued to be satisfactory as to quality and as to quantity for immediate purposes. The Borough of Leamington is being supplied from these schemes at the rate of about 3 million gallons per month. Both supplies are chlorinated.

(ii) Samples for bacteriological and Chemical examination of both treated and untreated water have been taken, and have been satisfactory. Samples have also been taken from public supplies in parishes where the Council is not the water supply Authority, and in each case the samples have proved upon analyses, to be satisfactory, as run herewith.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES ANALYSIS RESULTS.

Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

	<i>Radford.</i>	<i>Whitnash.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	0.000	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.000	0.0016
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	2.9	3.4
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ...	0.27	0.68
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours ...	0.008	0.008
Total Solids dried at 100°C. ...	72	60
Appearance Bright Few Small Particles		
Hardness { Temporary ...	19.0	21.0
{ Permanent ...	32.0	13.0
	—	—
Total ...	51.0	34.0
Nitrite ...	Absent	Absent

(iii) None of the supplies are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) No action in respect of any form of contamination has been necessary.

(v) 1,600 houses out of a total of 4,685, comprising about one-third of the population, are supplied with water from the public mains. None are supplied by means of standpipes.

2. The Council has purchased an existing bore well at Shrewley, and propose to sink a bore at Rowington, so as to provide a piped water supply to the Western area of the rural district. This area, in parts, is very short of water, many wells in Hatton and Shrewley parishes are dry, or yield very little. Water has been carted by the Council twice weekly to certain houses in this "dry" area.

3. *Drainage and Sewerage*.—While there are no changes to report, a number of sewage schemes are being prepared.

4. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—There is no change to report.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—Reference is made to this in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector which follows.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual tables have been compiled and are being kept for record purposes.

1. *Overcrowding*.—There is little to add to my last report. Overcrowding has, however, abated somewhat.

2. The following table shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme. Upon completion of the Rural Housing Survey, other instalments will be prepared.

	<i>T.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>P.</i>	Completed
Bishops Tachbrook	10	—	76	24
Whitnash	10	—	40	22
Radford Semele ...	10	4	72	20
Offchurch	—	—	16	—
Hunningham	—	—	18	—
Eathorpe	—	—	8	—
Weston-under- Weatherley	—	—	8	—
Cublington	10	—	103	16
Baginton	—	—	24	—

		<i>T.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>P.</i>	Completed
Stoneleigh ...	...	—	2	36	2
Ashow ...	...	—	—	4	—
Old Milverton ...	...	—	—	6	—
Leek Wootton ...	...	—	—	22	—
Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne		—	—	52	—
Norton Lindsey		—	—	8	—
Budbrooke ...	...	—	—	18	—
Hatton ...	...	—	—	30	—
Shrewley ...	...	—	2	8	2
Lowsonford ...	...	—	2	15	10
Rowington ...	...	—	—	20	—
Lapworth ...	...	—	—	16	—
				12	—
Baddesley Clinton		—	—	8	—
Beausale ...	...	—	—	10	12
		—	—	—	—
Totals ...		40	12	630	108
		—	—	—	—

T. Temporary. *S.* Swedish. *P.* Permanent.

3. *Fitness of Houses.*—The general conditions of many houses is on the poor side. Many condemned cottages, are, unfortunately, still occupied and will need to be occupied for some time yet, but more repairs have been carried out this years than for several past years.

4. *Temporary Dwellings.*—The temporary hutments, many erected during the war as shelters, are still with us, and unfortunately, have to serve as dwellings. It is hoped that the time is not too far distance when these structures can be removed and the occupants properly housed.

E. INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This is dealt with in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1940.

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1941	37	18	2	52	—	2
1942	...	—	11	13	—	17	—	—
1943	...	—	16	19	—	22	—	1
1944	...	—	8	30	—	9	—	—
1945	...	—	9	48	—	13	—	1
1946	...	—	5	16	—	6	—	2
1947	...	—	7	23	1	4	—	—

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1947.

Scarlet Fever.—The 23 cases notified were well distributed throughout the district, seven cases occurred in the boundaries of Coventry, five at Whitnash and seven at Barford, four being in one household.

Diphtheria.—None of the seven cases notified, three in one household, had been immunised.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year immunisation of the school children continued, and up to December 31st, 1,617 children between 5 and 15 years had been treated, also 907 under 5 years, a total of 2,524.

Polio-encephalitis.—One case was notified from Stoneleigh.

Polio-Myelitis.—Five cases were notified, only one was in an adult. Two of the cases were at Budbrooke Barracks.

School Closures.—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
1	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
5	1	—	...	2	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
15	4	2	...	—	—	...	1	1	...	—	—	...
25	1	4	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...
35	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
45	2	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
55	2	1	...	—	—	...	3	1	...	—	—	...
65 and upwards	—	2	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
TOTALS ...	11	9	...	2	—	...	5	2	...	—	—	...
	—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—	

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Warwick Rural District during the past 20 years.—

TUBERCULOSIS.

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Cases ...	13	12	9	10	16	14	8
Deaths ...	7	10	6	5	6	7	3
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases ...	11	20	20	22	23	18	27
Deaths ...	3	7	6	7	4	3	6
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
Cases ...	12	22	11	26	19	22	
Deaths ...	2	4	4	4	7	7	

During the year 22 cases of tuberculosis have been notified, 20 of which were of pulmonary and 2 of other forms of tuberculosis.

Sanatorium.—During the year 5 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, and 4 were discharged.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December, 1947.

Public Cleansing.

Progress in the Public Cleansing Department has been much more satisfactory than for some years past. There are now three new refuse collectors at work with an older one in reserve. The German labour has been withdrawn, but has been replaced by Polish labour. There have been extensions to this service during the year to parts of the parishes of Ashow, Bishops Tachbrook, Blackdown, Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch, and Old Milverton.

The parishes of Baginton, Barford, Cubbington, Lapworth, Leek Wootton, Radford, Sherbourne, Stoneleigh and Whitnash, are, as formerly, cleansed, and it is expected to extend the service to Budbrooke and Wasperton early in the New Year.

The collection of nightsoil has been maintained and the delivery of a new collecting machine has been promised for early in February.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Routine inspections have been made to food premises, including canteens and shops.

Milk and Dairies.

Routine inspections have been made to Dairy premises, 9 applications have been received for registration under the Milk and Dairies Order. All applications receive careful consideration and are not registered unless or until the premises are satisfactory.

The County Council is the responsible authority for the issue of licences to producers of T.T. and Accredited Milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Visits have been made in connection with emergency slaughter and cottagers' pigs, and to canteens and shops, a small quantity of food has been surrendered as set out in Table I.

Temporary Housing.

The district received its share in the so-called Squatter movement. Three camps were taken over, one at Finham, Stoneleigh; one at Stareton, Stoneleigh; and the other at Blackdown. The latter two have been well maintained by the occupants, but the Finham Camp is a disgrace. Some of those occupying Finham Camp were utterly irresponsible and destructive. Huts were smashed, sinks and other fittings removed; quarrels were frequent and the police had to be called in on at least one occasion. Not all of the "squatters" were of the irresponsible type. Some tried to form a working committee to govern the camp, but after an attempt to enforce order, the effort was spoiled by those who would not subject themselves to voluntary discipline. Camp committees were formed at the other two camps and still function very well. The Council in response to a request of the Ministry of Health, provided water and sanitation. Certain alterations are contemplated to improve the

amenities, and a specification of works has been drawn up for submission to the Ministry of Health. The proposals consist briefly of :— Partitions to huts, provision of separate lavatories, coal-houses, stand pipe water supply, new cooking ranges, and other incidental works, at an estimated cost of :—

Blackdown ...	£360.
Stareton ...	£880.
Finham ...	£3,100.

Sanitary Services.

The provision of sanitary services over the greater part of the district has been the subject, by the Council and its appropriate Committees, of a great deal of thought. The most ambitious scheme is that known as the Western Area Water Scheme. Other schemes which are in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers are :—

- Barford water supply.
- Barford and Sherbourne Sewage.
- Bishops Tachbrook Sewage.
- Baginton Sewage.
- Cubbington, Offchurch and Radford Sewage.
- Extension of water main from Leek Wootton to Hill Wootton.

Considerable progress has also been made by the Consultant Architects in the preparation of the Housing Schemes, which are enumerated elsewhere.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative, known formerly as a rat catcher, has operated throughout the year. The difficulty noted last year with respect to transport has been solved by the provision of a motor van. The operator spends approximately half his time in inspections of likely rat and mice infestations, and the remainder in rat destruction. The methods employed are those advocated by the Ministry and they are undoubtedly satisfactory.

Rural Housing Survey.

The Survey has been carried out as a result of the recommendations of the "Third Report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee known as the Hobhouse Report."

It was first intended to be completed within a year although the Ministry of Health made no time limit, but was anxious to obtain information of a general character, so that this survey is to be regarded in a preliminary sense to become more thorough at a later date. Therefore it follows that a further detailed survey will be necessary at a future date to provide up-to-date information for the service of notices, etc. Thus with this preliminary survey a provisional classification has taken shape of houses which could with confidence be assumed to fall into one of the various groups or categories.

OVERCROWDING.

The Survey has been confined to the houses—no account has been taken of the number of occupants.

CLASSIFICATION.

The houses have been classified as falling into five categories.

Category 1. Houses in a satisfactory condition.

Category 2. Houses requiring minor repairs.

Category 3. Houses in need of reconditioning, amounting to structural alteration.

Category 5. Houses which are fit subjects for demolition.

The fourth Category—houses suitable for action under the Housing (Rural Workers Acts), has not been used, in view of the fact that the Acts are not now operative.

NUMBER OF HOUSES NOT EXCEEDING £20 RATEABLE VALUE.

TOTALS :	Category (1)	1555—42%	Satisfactory.
	„ (2)	897—22%	Minor repairs.
	„ (3)	701—19%	Structural alterations.
	„ (5)	536—14%	Fit for demolition.
		<hr/>	
		3689	
		<hr/>	

Of No. 5 184 already condemned.

It will be noted that there are a large number of cottages in Category 3—houses in need of reconditioning amounting to structural alteration ; this includes lack of services, such as water, sewers, heat and light. The subsequent and final report will give details of the lack of these services.

Category 3 can be dealt with mainly under Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936, but the initiative rests with the owner, so that some of these may become Category 5.

The Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee consider that the need for improvement in existing Rural housing conditions is so great that a programme of reconditioning is essential to bridge the gap between the standard of old property and that of new.

The Committee however recognise that the erection of new houses has first claim on the building industry, and therefore hold that reconditioning should be carried out by small builders not large enough to tackle new projects effectively on a competitive basis.

Houses and cottages of architectural or historic merit should be kept in a sound state of repair to retain their value as a heritage of the countryside. The places should be identified by means of lists prepared under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1944.

The following is the classification in Table Form, the detailed classification according to Parishes is available for consideration when Housing activities become a possibility.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LYNE,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1947.

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisance abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
*Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	468	31	142	105
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds ...	120	—	47	41
Bakehouses	4	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops	4	—	—	—
Ashpits and privies	32	—	—	—
Food Preparation Premises ...	45	—	—	—
Ashbins substituted for Ashpits ...	10	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	42	—	10	10
Water Closets	21	—	14	14
House Drainage	27	—	19	15
Water Supply	142	—	87	57
Pigsties	21	—	14	14
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Factories	31	—	1	1
Shops	40	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1007	31	334	257

* Excluding visits in connection with Rural Housing Survey and Building Licences.

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food :—

Meat	40 lbs.
Canned Goods	—
Fish	—
Flour	—
Eggs	—
Dried Fruit	—
Samples of Water taken for analysis ...	68
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	20
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	30

E. ARTHUR LYNE, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1947 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1941	18,240	230	12.6	11	46	178	9.8
1942	18,440	297	16.1	5	17	137	7.5
1943	18,600	260	14.0	11	41	156	8.4
1944	19,120	311	16.3	9	29	140	7.3
1945	17,850	241	13.5	15	62	164	9.2
1946	17,800	263	14.8	16	61	169	9.5
1947	18,280	296	16.2	11	37	201	11.0

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1947.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	20.5	0.50	12.0	41
126 Great Towns, including London			23.3	0.62	13.0	47
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	22.2	0.54	11.9	36
London	...	...	22.7	0.49	12.8	37

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	7			6	1					
Erysipelas	1						1			
Scarlet Fever	23			20	1	2			12	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	1					1				
Pneumonia	4					2	1	1		12
Malaria										
Dysentery	5	1		1		2	1			
Puerperal Pyrexia ...										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1				1					
Poliomyelitis	5		2	2	1					
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis ...	1	1								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20			1	6	6	5	2		5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2			2						1
Totals	70	2	2	32	10	13	8	3	12	18

TABLE IV.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	108	93
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	2
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9 Influenza	1	—
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	—	1
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	4	2
15 Cancer of Breast	—	3
16 Cancer, other Sites	9	5
17 Diabetes	1	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	9	14
19 Heart Disease	37	29
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	3	3
21 Bronchitis	3	3
22 Pneumonia	7	5
23 Other Resp. Diseases	1	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	1	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	—
26 Appendicitis	1	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	1	2
28 Nephritis	3	2
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	—	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	3	1
33 Suicide	3	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	3	—
35 Other Violent Causes	3	3
36 All Other Causes	11	10

